

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-8, 19, 22 and 23 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Claims 24 and 25 have been cancelled. No new matter is added to the present application by the foregoing amendments, which are fully supported in the specification as originally filed, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, on page 3, section 6, claims 1-8, 19, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in the interest of expediting the allowance of the above-captioned application, Applicants have amended the claims to address the Examiner's concerns in each instance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejection

In the Office Action at page 5, section 8, claims 19 and 23 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 34 and 39-41 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/185,769. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Solely in an effort to expedite the allowance of the above-captioned application, Applicants agree to file a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c), and will file said terminal disclaimer shortly. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

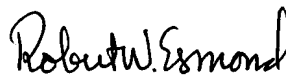
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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